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SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Sir, If a question is put and not answered, that question lapses if the House is prorogued. I suggest that the rules governing questions and answers may be amended. Apart from this, I do not know what will happen to the question-hour if the hon. Member Sri T. Purushotham becomes the Chief Whip of the Congress Party."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" When once the House is prorogued, everything lapses except Bills which are pending."

* SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" May I know, Sir, whether we are going to have non-official business to-morrow?"

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not know whether we will be able to finish our business to-day. If we finish, we may perhaps adjourn the Council to-day itself."

II.—STATEMENT *RE* SUSPENSION OF THE MODIFIED SCHEME OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

* SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—" Sir, I understand that a very important pronouncement has been made about the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education this morning on the floor of the other House. May I know, Sir, whether we are also going to be treated to that information to-day? At any rate, if a statement is made here to-day, it will amount to simultaneous action taken by the Government. This House should also be respected in this manner, and that is my request to Government."

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, I like to support the request made by the hon. Member Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar. It should indeed be a wholesome convention if all questions of policy on which statements are made in the other House are stated in this House also simultaneously. I believe, Sir, that there should be no discrimination between the other House and this House, and I request the Hon. the Minister for Education to make in this House also a brief statement on the dropping of the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, it was my privilege to have raised this point. I request the Hon. the Education Minister to make a statement. (At this stage the Hon. the Chief Minister was seen entering the House.) Now that the Hon. the Chief Minister has come, I request him to make the statement. After all, in the previous Government, it was the Chief Minister who made the statement on all important matters. The Hon. the Education Minister, or preferably the Hon. the Chief Minister, will kindly make a statement new in this House."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members are aware that a statement has been already made on the floor of the Assembly. A request has been made that the statement should be repeated here as this House also is

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entitled in respect of major policies to hear statements on those policies. Hon. Members may be aware that last year a scheme of elementary education was introduced, known as the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education. That scheme sought to solve the problem of giving education—universal elementary education—to all our boys and girls. Considering our educational Budget, it was thought that with the financial resources available it was not possible to provide education to all our children unless we adopted some sort of a shift system by which the existing teaching personnel would be able to provide and impart education to double the number of children. What was known as the 'out-of-school programme' was also included in the system to give a craft and manual labour bias to education. But in spite of the very good object with which that scheme was introduced, there has been considerable volume of opposition to it. In my humble view, it is due to certain misunderstandings and prejudices. In a democratic country, the introduction of any scheme, and more so the working of any scheme successfully, depends upon the willing co-operation of the people and the community as a whole, and in the absence of such co-operation it will not be possible to work out any scheme, whatever be its merits or demerits. So, considering all those things, in order to create a better atmosphere in which we can take a calmer decision, the Government decided to suspend the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education and introduce forthwith, from the 1st of June 1954, the old scheme which was prevalent when this Modified Scheme of Elementary Education was introduced. The Government are also considering the further steps to be taken in this matter. There is a consensus of opinion that as far as the old educational system is concerned, it requires radical changes. What are the changes, and how they should be made, cannot be left in the vacuum without being tackled by any Government. Therefore, the Government are considering this question, and no final decisions have been reached. But if I may indulge in some loud thinking, I may say that we are thinking in the direction of appointing an expert committee to go into the matter again and report on the scheme of elementary education we should have. But when I say this, hon. Members of this House should also bear in mind that as far as elementary education is concerned, we have accepted basic education as our ultimate object. It takes a long time to introduce basic education throughout the State. As a matter of fact, out of 21,000 and odd schools, within the last four or five years, we have converted only 720 schools into basic schools. That is the slow progress we are making. Till all these schools are converted into basic schools, we cannot afford to remain quiet. We have to make changes in the existing system of education. It is only with this object a committee is proposed to be appointed. I am sure that when we take further steps this House will be kept informed of them."

2-40 p.m.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Sir, may I ask whether there will be a debate on this to-morrow? "

* Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, from the statement that the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education is only suspended, am I to understand that it is not dropped? "

* The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, 'Suspend' in the sense that some of its features may be adopted by the expert committee, and we may accept them. In that sense I said 'suspended'. I also said that immediately the other scheme was coming into effect."

* Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, how much is this new expert committee going to cost us? We had a committee before. That committee cost us something."

* The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The other committee cost us Rs. 2,500. I do not know how much this committee would cost us. I have not yet thought about it."

III.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following Message, dated the 18th May 1954, from the Hon. the Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly :—

'*The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 1954 (L.A. Bill No. 27 of 1954).*

In accordance with rule 116 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the motion passed today by the Madras Legislative Assembly, desiring to obtain the concurrence of the Council in setting up a Joint Select Committee of the two Houses to consider the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 1954 (L.A. Bill No. 27 of 1954).

That the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained for setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 23 members (15 members of the Assembly and 8 members of the Council) to consider the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 1954, and that the following members of this House be selected to serve on such a Joint Select Committee. (List of names to be furnished after the concurrence of the Council obtained)' ".

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS (ACQUISITION) BILL, 1954 (L.A. BILL NO. 23 OF 1954)—*cont.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" We will now take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill. There are no amendments to clauses 2 to 6. I shall now put them to the vote of the House."

Clauses 2 to 6 were put and carried.

Clause 7.

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" The motion is—

'That clause 7 do stand part of the Bill.' "